A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, July 20 1708.

I Have been upon the Subject of Misrepresentations—It is a Copious Article, and I could run it a great length; I have shewn you two remarkable Instances of it, in the Reports spread about, of the Powder of *Edinburgh* Castle being exhausted, and the Governour being suspected, Things taken for granted all over *England*, but nothing known of them in *Scotland*; nor was any thing more scandalously false, especially that of the Governour, whose Character I spoke a little of, and need add nothing to it, since he has, I dare say, the Testimony both of Friends and Enemies to as good a Character, as any Man of Honour can desire to carry to the Grave with him.

I am sorry to see our publick Prints every Day abound with more Misrepresentations, both of Persons and Things— And tho' I am loth to meddle with the Personal Reproaches, which a certain Author is very free to cast upon an honest and hearty as well as noble Friend to the Protestant Religion and the QUEEN's Interest, in Defence of Persons of something a meaner Character than his Lordship, as what I am not concern'd in, and that noble Person is able very well to vindicate himself; yet I cannot but say, that when an Author who pretends to Honesty falls upon Gentlemen, whose Integrity is untainted, and this in Defence of *Jacobites*, and the Enemies of the Establishment of this Island both in Church

Church and State, it's a Sign to me, that our Times are come to some strange Crisis, of which it is hard to determine, where it begins, where it tends, or in what Disaster it will finish its Course.

I have nothing to do with the Affair between the E. of *L——n* and *P——n*, of which an Advertisement was publish'd in a late *Review*; nor shall I embark in the Quarrels of particular Men—— But here is a Gentleman entrusted by the QUEEN with so material a Commission as that of Lieutenant General and Commander in Chief of a whole Kingdom, and sent down in Time of an Invasion to defend us against a Popish Pretender which was at the Door, and the *French* ready to set Foot on the Shore, and a miserable, wretched, disaffected Party of Protestants, as they call themselves, who had rendred themselves suspected by insolent Behaviour, were in a manner braving the Government at home—— Again, here is her Majesty consulting what Measures to take to suppress this Invasion, to crush the Insolence of *Jacobites* at home, and defend her Subjects against Popish and *French* Invasions abroad—— And what's the Matter now?

Why a great Noise is made here by the People taken up of Wrong, and Injustice in their being taken up at a Time, when the whole Nation was in Danger——And when they dare not fly in the Face of the Government, *tho' they are not over-silent that way neither*; they must fall upon her Majesty's Servants that execute her Orders.

And what are the Complaints?

Some are scandalized with having it said they were to be Evidences against others—And really, Gentlemen, with Submission to your own Opinions, if the other or any of them had been guilty, and you had detected them, and had been Evidences against them, I think, it had been to your Honour, not at all to your Reproach, to have detected Treason against your Sovereign——

Another, he was taken up to his mighty Prejudice, for he should otherwise *have been chosen Parliament Man*—— And he flies in the Face of the E. of *L——n* the Instrument—— But says not one Word of the QUEEN the Original.

But all this ill Blood lies against the QUEEN for taking up these People at all, and much her Majesty is beholden to some that are Advocates for these People; that because there is not Proof of Fact against them, therefore it was injurious to take them up.

Now, if this be fair Dealing with your Sovereign, *Gentlemen*, judge ye.

If the QUEEN was not to be allow'd to take up any, but those that there was some Fact to be prov'd against—What then signified an Act of Parliament, empowring her Majesty to secure those whom she had Reason to suspect, for any Body might have been secured upon Information before; if some are to be secured now, that could not be secured before by Law, let us examine who they are; and this is answer'd in short, not the guilty only, but any Person that was suspected of being guilty.

Now I think it is very easie to make out one thing, and it may serve for a Foundation of this Argument; That tho' all the Gentlemen taken up were absolutely innocent, yet it was just in the Government to secure them at that time, if they had but a general Character of being disaffected to the present Settlement— Nay, tho' they were not really disaffected, if they were but generally supposed to be so, it was sufficient——It is not beyond the Memory of Man, since King *James* set the Example of this very thing, and when the Duke of *Monmouth* landed in the *West*, Hundreds of the honestest and most innocent Men in the Nation having but the general Character of *Whigs*, or being only *Dissenters*, were taken up and kept under a Guard in the Halls and publick places in the City. Now no Man ever blamed King *James*'s Prudence in it—But I have often heard him blam'd, that he did not do the same in the Case of the Prince of *Orange*'s Invasion, and

and that if he had, he had prevented the general Defection which follow'd.

The Times are now turn'd, and what was just in King *James*, and but Policy or Prudence in him, must be call'd Tyranny and Hardship in the QUEEN.

Let us then see, who were they that were taken up in those Times; they were not only all the *Dissenters* and Persons eminently discontented, but all that by their Principles were supposed to be disaffected to the Interest of King *James*——— Now, Gentlemen, there is an old Proverb in *England*, which says, *Sauce for a Goose is Sauce for a Gander*———By your own practised Method you had nothing but Justice—and the QUEEN has an unanswerable Argument against all your Murmurs on this Account.

Nor is it of any Signification to say, I am innocent, or there is nothing against me; Punishment must, as I formerly noted, be annex'd only to Guilt, and that Guilt made manifest—But Suspicions are taken from the Surface of Men's Actions, and a general Character is a sufficient Foundation of Suspicion.

I know now they will fly in my Face, and cry out, their Character gave no Reason for Suspicion—And some perhaps may expect to bring me in to Personal Reflections; no, no, Gentlemen, I'll be concern'd in none of your Quarrels—but I'll state the Case fairly, and let it pinch where it will, (my Lord *Bellhaven*'s Case I have spoke to already, so he is set out of this Debate); But every Man of the other who were taken up, who were not *Jacobites* profess'd so or reputed so, who were not really *Jacobites*, or generally reckon'd to be so, every one of them had Wrong done him, and NO OTHER. Now, if there was any Man among them that can say, he had not given Reason to the World to pronounce him a *Jacobite*, or what we generally call a *Jacobite*, let him be the Man that complains of Wrong, for no Man else can—And to tell the World you were injur'd, or that you lost your Election by being taken up, is saying nothing; the Question is, had her Majesty just Reason to secure you or no? Were you a *Jacobite* or no? ——The Juncture was a sufficient Ground to suspect every Man that had not visibly, publickly and originally own'd and acknowledg'd her Majesty, and joyn'd with the Protestant Succession.

They therefore that go about to exclaim at the Hardships these Gentlemen have suffer'd, shew an intollerable Partiality to the *Jacobites* against the QUEEN, that they will not allow a Man's being a profess'd or a known *Jacobite*, to be a just Object of Suspicion, in Case of the Invasion of the Pretender.

The Invasion was in Behalf of the Title of King *James*, in the Person of the Pretender; who could the Parliament mean by suspected Persons, but such as were Opposers of the Protestant Succession, and that had pretended to own the Right of the Pretender———If any of the Gentlemen taken up were not such, let us hear of their Names, that it may be examin'd, whether the QUEEN took them up without sufficient Ground or no. For in this Case, where the Justice of the Government is concern'd, we must be nicely exact—And in being so, this Distinction will be most natural, *viz.* That it is not the Question whether they were guilty or not—but whether the Government had Reason to suspect their Fidelity or not——— And I would be glad to hear the Name of the Man, that can be vindicated in that Case, that I might vindicate him also.

If then the Complaints of Men in their own Cause must affect us, and her Majesty and her faithful Servants must be insulted, because all necessary Methods are used to secure them in time of imminent Danger—Who will be found to serve in such Cases? —The E. of L——w executed his Order, with as much Tenderness and Personal Respect as he could; and he had not been faithful to her Majesty or to the Nation, if he had neglected taking up every Man he had Orders to take up; and the Reproaches thrown on him for doing his Duty are really a Reproach to the Nation, not to his Character; *only with this Difference*, that it is only the Pen of a Mercenary, full of Spleen, Party-Malice and Partiality—

which

which no honeſt Man can joyn with in it, and which can no ways touch the Character of the Perſon they aim at, *any more* than the Dog that barks at the Moon can eclypſe her Light.

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THoſe who have Met, do Reſolve to Proceed by the Method Propoſed, which they hope cannot fail of Succeſs, if not baffled by delay of the Perſons concern'd, to unite their Intereſt. They that do not meet and Incourage the Proceedings, may never expect another ſuch Opportunity.

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☞ I *Thomas Pritchard*, at the *Saracens-Head* in *Little Carter Lane*, near St. *Paul's*, *London*, having a Son who had a very bad Rupture, and applying to Mr. *Bartlett*, at the *Golden Ball* in *Preſcot-ſtreet* in *Goodman's-Fields*, *London*, He perform'd the Cure in four Days to my great Surprize, and my Son has remain'd well ever ſince.

This is to give Notice, that I *Richard Baker*, of *Lawrence-Poltneys Lane*, *Cannonſtreet*, *London*, having had a Rupture for about fifty Years; at laſt I apply'd my ſelf to the late Mr. *Chriſtopher Bartlett*, at the *Golden Ball* by the Tavern in *Preſcot-ſtreet* in *Goodman's-Fields*; who, by his ingenious Invention of Spring-Truſſes and Rupture Spirits, with the Bleſſing of GOD, made a perfect Cure in about eight Months, and I have been perfectly well ever ſince, which is about four or five Years.

NOTE, His Son *P. Bartlett* lives at the ſame Place as above-mention'd, and carries on the ſame Buſineſs, as his Father did; having been by him thoroughly Inſtructed therein.